Magnificent Swallowtail

Papilio garamas



Inside



Outside



Chrysalid

REIMAN GARDENS
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Magnificent Swallowtail

Papilio garamas

Order: Lepidoptera
Family: Papilionidae

Etymology: The genus *Papilio* is Latin for Butterfly. The origin of the species *garamas* is currently unknown.

Wing span: 5 - 6.5 inches (127 – 166 mm)

Habitat: The Magnificent Swallowtail is primarily found in forested areas, but they often venture into urban areas.

Host Plant: The larvae are known to feed on magnolia and avocado.

Adult Food Source: Adults are known to feed from a variety of plants, including *Lantana*.

Life History: Males patrol for receptive females. After mating the female lays her eggs on the host plants. The larvae feed on the host plant until they are ready to pupate.

Flights: Adults can be observed in the wild from February through November.

Fun Facts: Systematically, the Magnificent Swallowtail is in an interesting position. Traditionally the Magnificent Swallowtail belonged to the genus *Papilio*. Recently it was published that the species has enough distinct traits to justify moving it out of the *Papilio* genus. Now, when you look in the literature, some list it as being *Papilio*, while others have it down as *Pterourus*.

Range:

